G. R. S. 59]

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

1907
(Sanitary)

File No. 86-07

Serial Nos. 1-2

Papers Filed.

Month October 1907

SUBJECT.

Adoption of measures for the Suppression of Plague in the State.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES.	LATER REFERENCES.

GPB—8,000—5-4-07

G.R.S. 11]

190 5-08

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(Sanj)

NOTES.

File No. 86-07

FILE HEADING.

Adoption of measures for the suppression of plague in the State.

From

Met^{lt} Asstt to the Hon'ble the Resident.

No. 966 Dated 18.9.07 Received 21.9.07

Diary No. 2134	Enclos. /	Spare Copies.	Serial No. /

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Forwards for information & for such action as may be considered necessary a copy of letter ~~No 1285 1288~~ from the Govt of India in the Home dept^{t} No 1275-84 dt the 17^{th} Aug 07 regarding the measures to be taken for the prevention & suppression of plague.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

A draft order forwarding a copy of the above to the Sanj Comm^{r} for an expression of opinion in the matter ~~for the carrying out of the plague preventive measures in the State consistent with the spirit pervading the letter under ref^{e} is laid for appl. orders~~ is laid for appl of the 2^{nd} Councillor

25/9/07

NOTES—First sheet.

GPB.—30,000—20-3-06.

G.R.S. 12]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Sm File No. 86 of 1907/2134

Serial No. 277 15.9.07

Please republish the Govt of India letter, in the Mysore Gazette and call the attention of Sanitary Commr and Deputy Commrs to the same

Put up a draft Note

HB 20/9/07

16-11 25/9/07

Why does this come back to me? HBM 26/9/07

This was misarranged by peons - I He should be from K S i* x - draft note below. JB 27/9

Draft note subd.

Done JB 30/9/07

4/10/07

Page 585 Part I 2. dated 24 Oct 07 of the Mysore Gazette

Note Nos 32838 17.10.07 Republished for general information the India Govt letter received under G.O. 1

No 3283½ 17.10.07. To the Secy Govt, the Deputy Commrs of Bangalore & Mysore City Municipalities. Forwards copy of Sl No. 2 for information & guidance

Note—Contn. sheet

GPB—40,000—12 5-06

'96/ IV 19-9-07 IV X5 58 1/5 San 86-07 sb 1 D 2134 Pol: 366 D 19-9-07

No. 966 / P Encl 1

FROM

F. P. RENNIE, ESQ., I. C. S.,
FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Dewan of Mysore.

Dated Bangalore, 18th September 1907.

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and for favour of such action as may be considered necessary, a copy of letter from the Government of India in the Home Department No. 1275-1284 dated the 17th August 1907 regarding the measures to be taken for the prevention and suppression of plague.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J. P. Rennie
First Assistant Resident.

NOS. 1275—1284.

FROM

SIR HAROLD STUART, K.C.V.O., C.S.I.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India;

TO

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, GENERAL DEPARTMENT (PLAGUE).

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, MUNICIPAL (MEDICAL) DEPARTMENT.

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES, MEDICAL (SANITATION) DEPARTMENT.

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB, HOME (MEDICAL AND SANITARY) DEPARTMENT.

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA, GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

„ SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

„ HONOURABLE THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

„ HONOURABLE THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND CHIEF COMMISSIONER, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

Home Department.
Sanitary—Plague.

Simla, the 17th August 1907.

SIR,

THE scientific commission which was appointed in 1905 to investigate the causation of plague has now completed the first stage of its labours, dealing with the etiology of the disease, and has arrived at conclusions of great practical importance. Some time must elapse before it is possible to publish an account of all the work done by the commission, but I am directed to address you at once on those results of its careful and valuable researches which have a direct bearing on the measures to be taken for dealing with the epidemic.

2. From the point of view indicated above the outstanding conclusions are :—

(1) that bubonic plague is spread by infected rats ;

(2) that the vehicle of contagion between rat and rat and between rat and man is the rat flea ; and

(3) that the life of the plague germ in soil, the floors and walls of houses and the like is of short duration.

These conclusions show that many troublesome and expensive measures undertaken for the purpose of destroying the germ in houses may be abandoned ; and they indicate that effort should be directed to prevent access to man of infected rats and their fleas, and to counteract the effects of the bites of infected fleas.

3. The Government of India recognize that the prevention of contact between man and infected rats and rat fleas is a problem the solution of which presents great difficulties. The construction of the vast majority of Indian houses favours infestation by rats ; there is usually an ample food supply for them ; and in many cases the people are not only themselves unwilling to destroy rats, but decline to afford any facilities for their destruction by others. These unfavourable conditions, however, are not always present, and there is evidence which indicates that well-devised measures carried out persistently will largely reduce the number of rats and thus retard, if they do not completely prevent, the spread of plague. But it must be remembered that rats breed with great rapidity, and it follows that spasmodic and ill-directed efforts to exterminate them can have little effect on the prevalence of plague and may actually do harm by discrediting not only rat destruction but other measures also.

4. Apart from actual destruction there are other means of keeping down the number of rats. It is impossible to expect in the immediate future much improvement in the structure of houses, but in certain localities something might no doubt be done in this direction, while beneficial results may possibly be obtained by building in selected centres a few houses, suitable for the poorer classes, to serve as models of the type of residence which is best fitted to secure freedom from rats. The provision of such model dwellings may conveniently be undertaken along with schemes for the demolition of insanitary areas and the opening up of congested quarters, measures which the Government of India regard as imperative because they are of value, both directly by reducing the facilities for rat-life and indirectly by their educational effect. Again, a diminution of the food supply of rats by the protection of grain stores and the prompt removal of all garbage has a direct effect on the rat population, which normally is limited only by the available supply of food.

5. The Government of India apprehend, however, that at least for some time to come measures undertaken to reduce the number of rats may have only partial and local results, and it will probably be found in most cases that the only practical way of removing man from contact with infected rat-fleas is by the temporary evacuation of quarters in which plague is prevalent. In the present state of our knowledge evacuation is the most efficient remedy against plague which we can offer to the people and the earlier this measure is adopted and the more completely it is carried out the greater will be the saving of life. It must, of course, be recognized that even in the most favourable circumstances the evacuation of their houses is attended with great inconvenience to the people, and it should be impressed upon district officers that while it is their duty to use their utmost endeavours to influence the leaders of the people and induce them to move into temporary dwellings, it is equally their duty, by affording assistance and making wise rules suited to the circumstances of the community with which they are dealing, to make the measure as little irksome as possible. It is impossible to lay down definite directions which should be followed in every case because conditions vary from place to place. For this reason district officers and their subordinates should be given considerable freedom of action in deciding what help shou'd be afforded, and they should consult their technical advisers regarding any rules that it may seem necessary to

prescribe. In one place grants of money may be desirable; in another it may be advisable to supply the materials for the construction of grass huts either free of charge or on payment; in a third the most suitable form of help may be the provision of corrugated iron for the construction of temporary residences. Arrangements for the care of the cattle will often be necessary, and provision should always be made for the safe custody of the property which the people must leave behind them in their houses. Whatever form of aid it is decided to give should be given promptly, with a minimum of preliminary formalities and without undue detail of subsequent audit.

The wishes and even the prejudices of the people must be consulted, and it is important that they should be made to understand the reasons for evacuation and why it is that this measure will save them. If they can be made to appreciate this, the site of the temporary encampment need not be at a greater distance from the evacuated houses than is sufficient to prevent rats following the people; and it will not be necessary to impose any restrictions beyond those which are required to prevent people bringing infected fleas with them from their houses.

6. The next measure to which I am directed to invite attention is inoculation. It has been established beyond doubt that inoculation is a most valuable protective against plague, and even when it does not afford immunity it doubles the chances of recovery. The Governor-General in Council is aware, however, that there is much prejudice on the subject and the claims of inoculation should be advocated with caution and tact. The goal to be aimed at is the provision everywhere of facilities for inoculation. For this purpose the members of the staffs of hospitals and dispensaries should be utilised whenever it is possible to do so, while establishments of special inoculators should be employed where such supplementary assistance is required. Training in the simple process of inoculation is necessary in all cases and can be given at the provincial laboratories and by commissioned medical officers selected for the purpose. I am to suggest that $\frac{\text{the Governor in Council}}{\text{the Lieutenant Governor}}$ should at once take into consideration the $\frac{\text{you}}{}$ needs of the $\frac{\text{presidency}}{\text{province}}$ in this respect.

7. It is known that acute plague in men and rats never completely disappears and it is probable that it is in the localities in which it persists throughout the period of abatement that the yearly epidemics have their origin. In each province these localities, which may not be the same from year to year, should be ascertained and special attention should be devoted to them with the object of extirpating plague in them and of preventing it from spreading from them.

8. The Governor-General in Council does not think it necessary to press further upon the attention of local Governments the importance of avoiding any action which excites the opposition of the people. That is clearly recognised, and he desires now, therefore, to dwell rather upon the necessity of urging district officers to take the initiative by explaining to the people what is known about the causes of plague, by teaching them to appreciate the danger of harbouring rats and by stimulating them to adopt measures of protection. They must not be coerced, but on the other hand they must not be left without guidance, advice and help. His Excellency in Council is convinced that the terrible mortality from plague excites the compassion of every officer of Government who is brought in contact with the people, but in the past, sympathy has not infrequently been accompanied by a feeling of helplessness and despair. The problem of combating the disease is still surrounded with many difficulties, but the increased knowledge which has now been gained has made the outlook distinctly more hopeful, and there is every reason to anticipate that persistent and sustained efforts will at least produce appreciable alleviation even though they may not afford complete relief. The Governor-General in Council

relies confidently upon the support and co-operation of local Governments in a combined endeavour to grapple with the epidemic and he in turn is ready to afford such administrative assistance as lies in his power.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. A. STUART,

Offg: Secretary to the Government of India.

C. B. P., Simla.—No. 1226 H. D.—29-8-07.—280.—J. A. S.

v34

Note 3283
Jud 86 07-2
17.10.07

The following letter No. 1275-84 of the 17th Augt from the Secretary to the Govt of India, Home Dept. received with letter No. 966 of the 18th Septr from the Ist Asstt to the Hon'ble the Resdt in Mysore is republished for general information.

(Here print the letter in full)

Rd

JB 30.10.07
Norton

To The Compiler for publn in 3 successive issues of the Gazette with a request that 500 Copies thereof may be sent to this office at a very early date.

Memo

Copy forwarded to the

83½

Sam/Comm^r. in Mysore. the DC/Comrs
of DCs & the Presds of the city
Mcpls of Bangalore & Mysore
for information. & guidance.

BC

30/9/07
Hosky

GENERAL.

No. 3283—San. 86-07-2, dated 17th October 1907.

The following letter No. 1275-84, dated the 17th August 1907, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, received with letter No. 966, dated the 18th September 1907, from the First Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, is republished for general information :—

The Scientific Commission which was appointed in 1905 to investigate the causation of plague has now completed the first stage of its labours, dealing with the etiology of the disease, and has arrived at conclusions of great practical importance. Some time must elapse before it is possible to publish an account of all the work done by the Commission, but I am directed to address you at once on those results of its careful and valuable researches which have a direct bearing on the measures to be taken for dealing with the epidemic.

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By Order,

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer,

Offg. Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.